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Letter dated 9 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 February 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 13 (d) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-29165 (E) 150200

Annex

Letter dated 7 February 2000 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the paper submitted by the Greek Cypriot administration, during the twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held from 17 to 28 January 2000, which contains false allegations against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as well as misrepresentations regarding the realities of the island.

The Greek Cypriot administration refers to the legitimate Turkish intervention in Cyprus as "invasion and occupation". I wish to reiterate that the only invasion and occupation in Cyprus is the usurpation by the Greek Cypriot side since 1963 of the seat of government of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus.

It should be recalled that Turkey intervened in Cyprus, in exercise of her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, in the wake of the Greek coup d'état of 15 July 1974, in order to prevent the total extermination of the Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriots and to prevent the annexation of the island to Greece. The coup was described even by the then Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios, in his speech to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, as "an invasion".

In connection with the alleged arbitrary change of geographical names in Northern Cyprus, it should be stressed that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or say whatsoever over the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and hence has no right to interfere with or complain about the choice of geographical names in Northern Cyprus. It is absurd to expect the Turkish Cypriot people, who have inhabited the island for centuries, to use, when referring to geographical names, nomenclature other than their mother tongue, Turkish. The Turkish Cypriot people have as much right as the Greek Cypriots to refer to geographical names of their homeland in their own language.

I would like to express the hope that all parties supportive of the current efforts in search of a settlement in Cyprus will urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its illegitimate claim of sovereignty over the entire island and work constructively towards a comprehensive settlement based on the existence of two sovereign peoples and states in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 13 (d) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus